

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 CU-02 NIC-01 /064 W

----- 012610

R 101432Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2254

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 14678

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL CONVENES

SECSTATE PASS USIA FOR IBS FOR INFO ONLY

REF: ADDIS 14488 PARA 7

1. ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES INVITED THE PRESS TO VIEW INITIAL PROCEEDINGS BY SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL AT OLD MENELIK PALACE THIS MORNING (DECEMBER 10).

2. PRESS USHERED INTO SAME RECEPTION ROOM IN WHICH THE LATE LG AMAN HAD GIVEN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE NOT SO LONG AGO. COURTROOM ARRANGED IN RECEPTION HALL DOMINATED BY FIVE-JUDGE PANEL. ALL JUDGES MILITARY, DESCRIBED AS HSIU GRADS AND AS HAVING JUDICIAL BACKGROUND. PANEL, CHAIRED BY COL. NEGUSSIE WOLDE MICHAEL, WHOSE NAME PRESS ENJOINED NOT TO REVEAL. THERE TABLES RESPECTIVELY FOR  
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THE DEFENSE AND THE PROSECUTION AS WELL AS BANK FOR "OBSERVERS",

WHICH FILLED BY UNIFORMED MEN SAID TO REPRESENT "THE ARMED FORCES."  
THERE ALSO WITNESS STAND AND SPECIAL BAR FOR THE ACCUSED.

3. WHEN PRESS AND SPECTATORS HAD BEEN ADMITTED, AUTHORITIES BROUGHT  
IN DEFENDANT WHOM THEY IDENTIFIED AS LT. COL. ADELA KATEW, 48,  
WHO CHARGED UNDER SPECIAL PENAL CODE WITH "INCITING TO DIVIDE  
UNITY OF ARMED FORCES." CHARGE SAID HAVE ARISEN IN CONNECTION  
WITH DEFENDANT'S STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO "DIRG" AND ETHIOPIA  
TIKDEM PHILOSOPHY TO STUDENTS AT ADDIS MENELIK II SCHOOL.  
DEFENDANT WAS NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL AND COURT DECIDED THAT HIS  
TRIAL WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER 13 SO HE COULD SUMMON HIS  
ATTORNEY FROM ASMARA. THAT WAS THE END OF THE PROCEEDING, FOLLOW-  
ING WHICH SPOKESMAN PROVIDED PRESS WITH INFORMATION CONTAINED ABOVE  
IN RESPONSE LATTER'S QUESTIONS.

4. PRESS ALSO ASKED WHETHER COURT WOULD TRY OTHER CASES BETWEEN  
NOW AND DECEMBER 13 AND WAS GIVEN EVASIVE REPLY. AS CONSEQUENCE,  
FOREIGN REPORTERS AT LEAST APPEARED GENERALLY OF OPINION THAT  
TRIALS LIKELY BE CONDUCTED IN SECRET. AT MINIMUM, THEY FEEL THAT  
GLIMPSE OF PROCEEDING ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROVIDES NO SOLID GROUND FOR  
ASSESSING DEGREE OF DUE PROCESS LIKELY TO BE APPLIED IN THE TRIALS.  
THEY ASKED WHETHER THEY WOULD BE PERMITTED TO RETURN ON DECEMBER 13  
AND WERE GIVEN NO CLEARCUT RESPONSE.  
WYMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRIALS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Reference:** ADDIS 14488 PARA 7  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Date:** 02 MAY 2002  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL CONVENES SECSTATE PASS USIA FOR IBS FOR INFO ONLY  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, ET  
**To:** STATE  
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